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PROTEIN ADDUCTS OF THE PROSTATE CARCINOGEN PHIP IN CHILDREN

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13. Abstract (Maximum 200 Words) (abstract should contain no proprietary or confidential information) Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men in the United States. Few epidemiology studies have indicated that exposure to PhIP, a rodent prostate carcinogen formed in meat during cooking, may be an important risk factor for prostate cancer in humans. Therefore, a highly sensitive biomarker assay is urgently needed to clarify the role of PhIP in prostate cancer. The goal of this project is to develop an assay that can be used to more accurately quantify human exposure to PhIP and potential prostate cancer risk. Our hypothesis is that an Accelerator Mass Spectrometry-based method can be developed to measure protein adducts of PhIP in the blood of humans. This will provide a measure of the internal dose, as well as the capacity for carcinogen bioactivation to a form that can initiate the cancer process. Towards this goal, we have characterized an adduct formed by PhIP in vitro with the amino acid cysteine. This adduct should provide a biomarker of dietary PhIP exposure and potential prostate cancer risk that could be used to identify individuals for prevention and for monitoring the effect of chemoprevention strategies.				
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Introduction:

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men in the United States, with African-Americans having the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world. Despite these statistics, the specific causes and risk factors for prostate cancer and reasons for the racial disparity remain elusive. A few epidemiology studies have indicated that exposure to PhIP, a rodent prostate carcinogen formed in meat during cooking, may be an important risk factor for prostate cancer in humans. There is also some evidence that African-American children have a 2-3 fold higher exposure to PhIP than White American children. Children are an important population to study because carcinogen exposure during development may lead to increased prostate cancer risk in later life. However, the epidemiology data are based upon PhIP exposure estimates from dietary questionnaires, rather than measurement of molecular markers that more accurately quantify an individual's internal dose and potential cancer risk. Therefore, a highly sensitive biomarker assay is urgently needed to clarify the role of PhIP in prostate cancer.

The goal of this project is to develop an assay that can be used to more accurately quantify human exposure to PhIP and potential prostate cancer risk. Our hypothesis is that an Accelerator Mass Spectrometry-based method can be developed to measure protein adducts of PhIP in the blood of humans. This will provide a measure of the internal dose, as well as the capacity for carcinogen bioactivation to a form that can initiate the cancer process. In a proof-of-principle study, we will use the assay to investigate the hypothesis that African-Americans may be at greater risk for prostate cancer than Whites because they have adduct levels that are 2-3 fold higher in childhood.

Our aims are to 1) Characterize the protein adducts formed by PhIP with the blood protein albumin. 2) Develop an ultrasensitive radiomunoassay for PhIP albumin adducts so that they can be assessed in populations of people. 3) Measure PhIP-albumin adduct levels in blood samples obtained from African-American and White male children.

Body:

During the first year of this grant (February 1, 2003 to January 31, 2004) we have made significant progress in specific aim 1 of the proposal. The progress is described as follows:

Specific aim #1: Characterize the adducts formed with the blood protein albumin after exposure to PhIP.

The goal of this aim is to use *in vitro* methods to synthesize sufficient quantities of adducts for characterization by mass spectrometry and then establish if these adducts are formed *in vivo* in an animal model and humans.

Towards this goal, we have characterized a peptide adduct formed by the putative genotoxic metabolite, *N*-acetoxy-PhIP. A model peptide with the internal sequence Leu-Gln-Lys-Cys-Pro-Tyr, which is homologous to a potential target sequence for heterocyclic amines such as PhIP in human serum albumin, was reacted with *N*-acetoxy-

PhIP and an adduct was identified and further characterized by LC-ESI MS/MS. *N*-acetoxy-PhIP was covalently bound to the peptide via cysteine and the exocyclic amino group of PhIP. This work has been accepted for publication in Food and Chemical Toxicology (Chepanoske *et al.*, see appendix for the manuscript).

The cysteine adduct was also formed when human serum albumin was reacted with *N*-acetoxy PhIP, as previously described (Brown *et al.* 2001, and Chepanoske *et al.* In press). To remove non-covalently bound or unreacted *N*-acetoxy PhIP, the reacted samples were purified using affi-gel columns and then concentrated using MiliQ centricons. The albumin samples were then digested by trypsin and Glu-C to allow analysis by mass spectrometry. Samples were desalted using zip tips C18 and/or C18 Sep Pak cartridges upon injection into mass spectrometer. Data were collected on an ICR-FT mass spectrometer (Bruker, CA) operating in the positive mode. Each data set consisted of 400 experiments of 8-16 scans/experiment with a delay time of 0.5 sec. PhIP adducts seen in the Glu-C digest were confirmed in the tryptic digest and were all with cysteines on the surface of the protein.

Towards establishing if the adduct is formed *in vivo*, albumin was isolated from human and rat plasma samples using previously published methods (Dingley *et al.*, 1998). We used a pooled plasma sample from rats that had been dosed with [¹⁴C]PhIP at a dose of 90 µg/kg body-weight. The human sample was obtained from a previous study in which volunteers were administered 1 µg/kg body-weight [¹⁴C]PhIP (Dingley *et al.*, 1999). Heterocyclic amine adducts with a sulfur linkage to cysteine are cleaved by acid hydrolysis (Turesky *et al.*, 1987). Hence by treating the albumin samples with acid, recovering PhIP through organic extraction and then analyzing using accelerator mass spectrometry, we can quantify the amount of the cysteine adduct formed in the rat and human plasma samples.

The acid hydrolysis method of Magagnotti *et al.* 2000 was used, with a few minor modifications. 500 µg of rat albumin or up to 1mg of human albumin in 1-2ml buffer in 15ml glass tubes were acidified by adding 220 µl of 1N HCl, and hydrolyzed at 80°C for 1hr. Immediately following the hydrolysis, the pH of the solution was made basic by adding 30 µl of 10N NaOH, and hydrolyzed PhIP was extracted three times with 1.5 times the sample volume of ethyl acetate. Extracted samples were dried by SpeedVac and analyzed by AMS. Preliminary data showed that 17% and 24% of the [¹⁴C]PhIP in the rat and human samples, respectively, was recovered following acid hydrolysis. Therefore, this result implies that the cysteine adduct represents 17% of the total covalently bound PhIP in rats and 24% of the total covalently-bound PhIP in humans. This experiment will be repeated to verify the finding and to establish the variability between individuals.

Key Research Accomplishments:

During the first year of this grant, we have shown that:

- *N*-acetoxy PhIP, a bioactive form of the prostate carcinogen PhIP, forms a protein adduct with cysteine in a model peptide *in vitro*. This finding is being published in a peer-reviewed journal.

- The cysteine adduct is also found in albumin that has been reacted with N-acetoxy PhIP. The adducts form on the surface of the protein.
- Preliminary data indicates that the cysteine adduct is formed *in vivo* in rats and humans exposed to PhIP.

Reportable Outcomes:

Publications

Cindy Lou Chepanoske, Karen Brown, Kenneth W. Turteltaub, and Karen H. Dingley. Characterization of a peptide adduct formed by *N*-acetoxy-2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine (PhIP), a reactive intermediate of the food carcinogen PhIP. In Press, *Food and Chemical Toxicology*.

Employment/Research Opportunities

Over the period of this grant, we were able to hire a post-doctoral fellow (Anh-Tuyet Tran), a biomedical scientist (Sylvia Ahn) and a summer student, Kristin Stoker from UC Berkeley, to work on this project. This was the first opportunity for Ahn and Sylvia to work in prostate cancer research.

Conclusions:

During the first year of this grant, we have made significant progress towards our specific aims. We have shown that a reactive form of PhIP forms adducts with proteins *in vitro* and have characterized an adduct with cysteine. This adduct is formed with albumin *in vitro* and preliminary data indicates that it is also formed *in vivo* in rats and humans. We will now attempt to synthesize sufficient quantities of the adduct to raise antibodies. The antibodies will then be used in an immunoassay to quantify adduct levels in human blood samples.

“So What?”

As a result of the work completed over the past 1 year, we have established the structure of an albumin adduct formed by a prostate carcinogen in blood. This will be used to provide a biomarker of dietary PhIP exposure and potential prostate cancer risk that could be used to identify individuals for prevention and for monitoring the effect of chemoprevention strategies.

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Turesky RJ, Skipper PL, Tannenbaum SR. (1987) Binding of 2-amino-3-methylimidazo[4,5-*f*]quinoline to hemoglobin and albumin in vivo in the rat. Identification of an adduct suitable for dosimetry. *Carcinogenesis*, 8(10):1537-42.

Appendices:

Copy of manuscript entitled:

Cindy Lou Chepanoske, Karen Brown, Kenneth W. Turteltaub, and Karen H. Dingley. Characterization of a peptide adduct formed by *N*-acetoxy-2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine (PhIP), a reactive intermediate of the food carcinogen PhIP. In Press, *Food and Chemical Toxicology*.